

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 646

By Johnson C

A RESOLUTION to urge the Tennessee Congressional Delegation to restore pension benefits to veterans that were cut by an amendment to the budget plan.

WHEREAS, preserving an attractive retirement system for military personnel is vital to maintaining a strong U.S. military force driven by volunteerism and national loyalty; and

WHEREAS, the recent two-year budget agreement approved by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives imposes \$6 billion in pension cuts to military retirees younger than sixty-two (62) years of age by reducing their increase for an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) by one percent (1%); and

WHEREAS, these pension cuts target a single group – military retirees – who make up less than one percent (1%) of the American population to help address the federal deficit; and

WHEREAS, the cost-of-living adjustment for those working-age military retirees would be one percentage point (1%) less than the rate of inflation beginning on December 1, 2015, until they reach the age of sixty-two (62), at which time their annual COLA increase would return to the rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, the pension cuts in the original budget agreement impacted all working-age military retirees, including disabled retirees; yet, the recent spending bill that passed Congress exempted disabled retirees; and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed pension cuts detrimentally impact working-age men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting national security and will result in them losing tens of thousands of dollars in pension benefits until they reach the age of 62; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this General Assembly that the pension cuts to all military retirees in the federal budget deal should be revoked and restored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the Tennessee Congressional Delegation to amend the federal budget plan to restore the cuts to all military retirees in order to avoid eroding their hard-earned retirement plans and to protect veterans' pension benefits as an investment critical to national security and American volunteerism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution with this final clause omitted from such copy to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.